Cost escalation on Golden Quadrilateral Project

1734. SHRI EKANATH K.THAKUR: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the much delayed 5,846 km. long Golden Quadrilateral project, due to be completed in December, 2006 is stuck in the last 437 km.;

(b) whether it is a fact that non-performance by new contractors has affected work at the Delhi-Kolkata, Kolkata-Chennai and Mumbai-Chennai corridors and the delay by the National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) has the cost soaring to Rs. 32,000 crore, Rs. 7000 crore more than the approved cost of Rs. 25,000 crore; and

(c) if so, the steps Government propose to take against the non-performers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) and (b) 92.5% of the Golden Quadrilateral has been completed by June, 2006 and only 437 km. is to be completed. 96% Golden Quadrilateral is targeted for completion by December, 2006. Balance of 4% stretches are affected due to non-performance of contractor, reaward of terminated contracts and also award of Allahabad bypass in 2004 with completion date in 2007.

The expenditure on Golden Quadrilateral upto 30th June, 2006 is within the total approved cost allowing for escalation. The cost overrun if any, will be known only after the completion of project.

(c) The contractors have been declared non-performing contractors and no new work is being awarded to such contractors.

Special accelerated road development programme for North-Eastern Region

1735. SHRI NABAM REBIA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by Government to improve road condition in North-Eastern Region;

(b) the main features of the Special Accelerated Road Development Programme; and

(c) the details of the scheme namely, total distance to be covered, budget earmarked and stipulated time of completion of the projects, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) This Ministry is concerned about National Highways and improvement of State roads under Central Road Fund. For improvement of National Highways in the North-Eastern Region, apart from sanction of works under normal Annual Plan Programme, 4-laning of 678 km. length has been taken up as part of East-West Corridor and 1246 km. length has been identified for 4-laning under National Highways Development Programme-Ill on BOT basis. Further, the Government has formulated Special Accelerated Road Development Programme for North-Eastern Region (SARDP-NE) for improvement of National Highways, State roads, general staff roads and roads of strategic importance in an aggregate length of 7616 km. in the North-Eastern Region. Funds have also been released for improvement of State roads under various schemes of Central Road Fund, depending upon accruals of the States.

(b) The main features of SARDP-NE are given below:—

- To connect all State capitals with improved/upgraded National Highways.
- To provide connectivity to 34 District Headquarters of the NE Region by at least 2-lane wide road.
- To improve connectivity to the neighbouring countries.
- To provide road connectivity to backward and remote area of NE Region to boost socio-economic development.
- To improve some of the important roads of strategic importance.

(c) the SARDP-NE is divided into two phases. Phase A covers 1310 km. length and is targeted to be completed by March, 2009. Phase B is proposed to cover about 6306 km. length, which has been approved by the Government only for the purpose of preparation of detailed Project Reports. Investment decision about Phase "B is yet to be taken by the Government. It is, therefore, too early to indicate time of completion of this Phase. Budget allocation of Rs. 550.00 crores has been made for SARDP-NE during 2006-07.